

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 02338 220627Z

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ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ES-01 /009 W
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R 220535Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1950

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PERSONAL FOR STEARNS, EA

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJ: COUNTERING HANOI'S DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE GVN

1. I UNDERSTAND FLIP WILSON IS NO LONGER ON TV, BUT PERHAPS YOU
CAUGHT ONE OF HIS SHOWS HERE HE, AS WILSON, OR AS GERALDINE,
USED THE TAG LINE "DON'T YOU TOUCH ME. DON'T YOU EVER TOUCH ME*"

2. WHICH IS A RATHER FEEBLE ATTEMPT TO TREAT LIGHTLY A MATTER ON
WHICH I PRESENTLY HAVE A RATHER SHORT FUSE. I REFER TO BOB WENZEL'S
LETTER TO JOE BENNETT OF FEBRUARY 8 IN WHICH, AFTER A FEW KIND WORDS
ON THE EMBASSY'S NORTH VIETNAMESE REPORTING, HE ADDS HE HAS ALSO
FOUND SAIGON'S 1450 QUITE USEFUL AND PLANS "TO CIRCULATE IT IN
AIRGRAM FORM TO ALL POSTS CHANGING ONLY PRG CONTROLLED POPULATION
FROM "3 PERCENT" TO "5 PERCENT" (THE LATTER ESTIMATE BEING THE
CONSENSUS HERE)."

3. I ASSUME THAT YOUR AIRGRAM MADE NO REFERENCE TO ANY COMMUNICATION
FROM EMBASSY SAIGON AS BEING THE SOURCE AND THAT THE AIRGRAM DID NOT
CIRCULATE THE TELEGRAM ITSELF. EA MAY, OF COURSE, IN ITS PASSION
TO BE "CREDIBLE" TO THE DON LUCE'S OF THIS WORLD, CONTINUE TO USE
WHATEVER FIGURES IT CHOOSES, WHETHER IT HAS ANY HARD EVIDENCE TO
SUPPORT THEM OR NOT. IF IT DOES, ONE WOULD HAVE SUPPOSED IT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN THOUGHT CONDUCIVE TO THE KIND OF RELATIONSHIP THAT
SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN A POST AND THE GEOGRAPHIC BUREAU FROM WHICH
IT IS SUPPOSED TO RECEIVE SUPPORT, THAT SUCH HARD EVIDENCE WOULD
BE GIVEN TO US. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED IT. WHAT IS IT? IF ONE
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 02338 220627Z

DEFINES "CONTROL" IN TERMS OF PERMANENT PRG GOVERNMENTAL INSTITU-

TIONS OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT THE PRG WOULD "CONTROL" LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. TO BE UTTERLY FAIR IN OUR REPORTING WE GAVE EVERY CONSIDERABLE BREAK TO THE PRG AND ARRIVED AT THE THREE PERCENT FIGURE AS A WHOLLY CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE. I REITERATE THE REQUEST FOR YOUR HARD EVIDENCE TO RAISE THE FIGURE TO FIVE.

4. BUT I DO ASSUME THAT THE AIRGRAM WAS WRITTEN AS COMING ONLY FROM THE DEPARTMENT, THAT THERE IS NO REFERENCE TO THE EMBASSY AS THE SOURCE OF ANY OF ITS CONTENTS, AND THAT THE TEXT OF THE CABLE ITSELF WAS NOT USED. IT IS JUST NOT POSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO CHANGE ANYTHING COMING FROM THIS EMBASSY OVER MY NAME WITHOUT MY PRIOR CONCURRENCE. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR IMMEDIATE CONFIRMATION THAT THIS DID NOT HAPPEN.

MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, RECOGNITION, TREATY SIGNATURE, ARMISTICE, COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, PRG, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON02338
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740215/aaaaaocp.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUNTERING HANOI'S DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE GVN
TAGS: PFOR, VN, VS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005